



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508

November 22, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting called to order, in person and as a video conference call, by Chairman Harvey Center at 6:30 pm with Commissioners: John Cherry, John Cooke, Cheryl Hill, Ed Moore, Gregory Smith, and Coordinator Gregory Wencek. Absent: Mary Burke.

Presentation of Minutes

The Minutes of the October meeting were submitted with a correction to the vote for the grant authorization for Peter Piotr, which did not change the outcome. A motion by GSmith to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by JCooke. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Correspondence

eMail: RECEIVED: Music Centre thank you for the approved grant, confirm Commission budget figures with finance office, literary contest setup, Commissioner appointments, office clean up, Grant opportunities.

Reports on DCC sponsored events

- * Pre-Halloween Concert - Danbury Brass Band Sunday, October 31

EMoore: There were about 50 people in attendance. The performance included some interesting instructional interludes as well.

- * Richter Association for the Arts Performance Series Fall 2021- Weekly on Sunday, until Nov 1

HCenter: Because the house is not habitable the last 3 events were cancelled because of poor weather.

- Events RETURNING with the modification of Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B

Danbury events not sponsored by the Commission

- Danbury Music Centre
- Danbury Museum
 - Guided Tours of 4 Danbury Museum Historic Buildings on our Main Street campus
 - The outdoor exhibit panels are installed.
- Danbury Railway Museum
- Palace Theater Danbury
 - Rocky Horror Picture Show
 - The Corvettes Doo Wop
- Galleries
 - Gallery at Still River Editions
 - Gallery of the Visual and Performing Arts Center WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension
 - Terrence Tougas - artistic expressions the elements
- WCSU Department of Theatre Arts
 - MELANCHOLY PLAY: a chamber musical - October 30 - November 7 Danbury Library
- WCSU Music Department
 - Oktoberfest Jazz - WCSU Friday, October 29

EMoore: The jazz concert at WCSU last Friday was very good. I definitely liked it.

- Orchestra and Concert Chorale - WCSU, November 21

Minutes of the Meeting (PROPOSED) Page 1 of 4 Proposed: November 24, 2021

NOTE: Additional and supporting information can be found in the files at the Commission office.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
DANBURY TOWN CLERK

2021 NOV 24 P 2:12

BY:



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Upcoming events

Calendar submitted to the Commissioners, and maintained at DanburyArts.com See addendum

Coordinator's Report

1. City Budget preparation for 2022-2023 begins this week.
2. Literary Contest rules and budget authorization approval requested from the Commission
 - a. School Coordinators selected: *Danbury High - Justin Hitchcock, Alternative Center for Excellence - Joanne Tolles, Immaculate High - Alexa Wild, Henry Abbott Technical High - Marisa Shanley*
 - b. Judges and Awards Ceremony location are still needed.
3. Letters to potential commissioners sent and some replies received
4. Intern: the work of the intern is on-going
5. Grant opportunities from the state could be available
 - a. The City budget for the Commission is regarded as "Matching funding" by the state.
6. Office cleanup
 - a. Closet in general and reposition the shelving height
 - b. Removal of desk and table from the office

Appeals from Community groups:

None

Old Business

1. Guidelines for grant applications (Highlights):
 - a. Define types of Grants as New Works and Sustaining
 - b. Define grant eligible groups as: art or cultural organizations, individuals, groups, associations, schools, or business
 - c. Define requirements for using grants:
 - i. No capital projects
 - ii. All sustaining grants must be awarded to 501(c)3 or equivalent organizations
 - iii. Define timeline to remain a "New Work" grant recipient
 - iv. Define timeline to become eligible for a sustaining grant
 - v. Define how much in matching funds is required
 - vi. Require grantees to have a presence in Danbury
 - c. Provide an exception for existing grantees until 2040

Moved by GSmith to approve the updates to the Grant guidelines, seconded by JCooke

DISCUSSION: Commissioners asked about specific scenarios.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Designs for Danbury GSmith: Will the invitation letters be sent in January? GWencek: Yes.
The Coordinator is still compiling the mailing list.



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Action on Grant Requests:

None

New Business

1. Authorization funding for:

a. Literary Contest (\$1,200 total including judge's \$100 stipend) for each contest

- First Prize \$200
- Second Prize \$125
- Third Prize \$75
- Honorable mention up to 4 at \$25 each

Moved by EMOore to approve the prizes as proposed, seconded by JCooke.

DISCUSSION: Various changes of prize amounts from past years including the number of prizes. The consensus is to leave the amounts as proposed.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. Make Music Day \$500

Moved by GSmith to Fund Make Music Day as proposed, seconded by EMOore.

DISCUSSION: none

CALLED: Passed by unanimous voice vote.

i. Apply for City Council approval for potential Make Music Grant

Moved by GSmith to have the Coordinator seek permission from the City Council to pursue any potential grants from the State for Make Music Day, seconded by EMOore.

DISCUSSION: GWencek notes that there have been grants available in the past and the Commission was unable to apply those funds to the budget because permission to accept funds was sought too late.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous voice vote.

c. Scholarship \$4,000

- i. Ben DaSilva Art at Danbury High School (DHS)
- ii. Millie Siegel Music at DHS
- iii. (Unnamed) Dance/Theater at DHS
- iv. (Unnamed) Henry Abbott Tech (HAT)

Moved by GSmith to fund the annual Scholarships as presented, seconded by JCooke.

DISCUSSION: GWencek: Why is there no Alternative Center for Excellence (ACE) scholarship? HCenter: ACE is a part of the Danbury High School system. The Coordinator is asked to inquire if ACE has a representative on the High School committee which selects scholarship candidates.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Other Business

HCenter notes that a \$1,000,000 grant is available for repairs to Richter Arts house if the City can match the funding. The total renovation project is estimated to be \$4,000,000. JCooke spoke with the Chairman of the Richter Park Authority and they are working on a plan to raise funds.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30

Made by GSmith. Passed by Unanimous vote.



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NOTE:

Corporation Counsel has provided the Clerk's office with the following... Current as of 3/16/20:

Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B issued on 3/14/20, the requirement of public attendance at all meetings of public agencies is suspended. Meetings are to be held remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology, provided that (in summary):

1) the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time by phone, video or other technology.

Therefore the Commission office had set up a video conference call which started at 6:00 on Monday evening. Commissioners and the public connected to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85641825624?pwd=UVBzdXhDRUw2RE4zTko4dDJMTjFmZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 0843 1151 Passcode: 593825

One tap mobile: +1929 436 2866,,859 0843 1151# US (New York)	Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) Meeting ID: 856 4182 5624 Passcode: 593825
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The meeting started at 6:30 and was not recorded by the Commission.

Upcoming events Addendum

* Nutcracker Ballet - Danbury Music Centre
Friday, Dec. 10 - Dec. 12

Danbury Community Band - Danbury Music Centre
Sunday, December 19 4:00 – 5:30pm

10 Year Retrospective Group Exhibition - Gallery
at Still River Editions
June 12 – December 17, 2021
Still River Editions
128 E Liberty St Suite 3, Danbury, CT 06810

SANTA TRAINS - Danbury Railway Museum
Santa Trains Saturdays: December 4, 11, 18 &
Sundays: December 5, 12, 19 every 90 minutes on
the half hour 12:30 - 6:30

*Events sponsored by the Commission